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**SECRET NOFORN**

IB - 348/63  
 4 December 1963  
 Copy 1 of 8

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Resources Division, ORR

ATTENTION : [REDACTED] R/FU

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THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS

FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT : Shale Oil Plant Mao Ming, Communist China

REFERENCE : (1) ORR Requirement No. ORR/41/62  
 (2) CIA/PID Project No. C 722/63

1. Referenced requirement requests a description of the shale oil plant at Mao Ming, China, an evaluation of its level of activity, a description of changes or recent expansions and, if possible, an estimation of production capacity or status of operation, and an annotated photographic enlargement of the plant.

2. This study was conducted from photo [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] covering the area. The enclosed annotated photo enlargement (CIA/PID/IB-P-785/63) was also selected from [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Following is a detailed analysis of this shale oil plant and installations in the immediate vicinity.

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3. Analysis of this shale oil plant indicates that the thermo-electric [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The power plant is in the early stages of construction. A concrete elevated water recirculation gallery approximately 5,600 feet in length is still under construction. This gallery begins at the thermo-electric power plant and will terminate at the spray ponds when completed. The gallery appears high enough for roads and pipelines to pass beneath. South of the complex there is a water treating area with two canals having been constructed to the power plant.

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One shale oil retort, approximately 900 feet long, appears to be completed. However, from the amount of activity observed they are processing minor amounts of oil shale or testing their equipment as a small amount of steam is being released from the southern side of the retort complex. A second retort, approximately 800 feet long is under construction. The distillation units probably are completed and can process minor amounts

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of Kerogen.

The complex as a whole appears to still be in early or middle stages of construction. There are large amounts of construction material laying about, the tank farms are not numerous and there is ample space for expansion.

4. In an area search around this complex three sites were observed that could have been shale oil pilot plants where minor amounts of shale was processed. Foundations for a possible furnace and associated tanks were observed 3/4 nm north from the complex. At the present time they appear to be dumping waste material in the area which will eventually cover this location. Two possible shale oil pilot plants were observed 2 1/2 nm east from the complex. Again tanks could be seen but it appeared as if the plants were not in operation and possibly the equipment has been dismantled and transported elsewhere.

The shale is mined just north of the complex using open pit mining methods. The mine is approximately 3 miles long by 800 or 900 feet wide. Fourteen large power shovels and two drag line cranes were observed. What appears to be a large sulphuric acid plant is located 1 1/2 nm north of the shale oil complex. This plant appears relatively new and at the present it is only road served.

5. The photo analyst on this project was  who may be contacted on extension 2547 should you have further questions regarding this project. This requirement is considered to be complete as of the date of this memorandum.

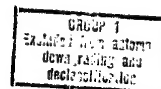
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ENCLOSURES:

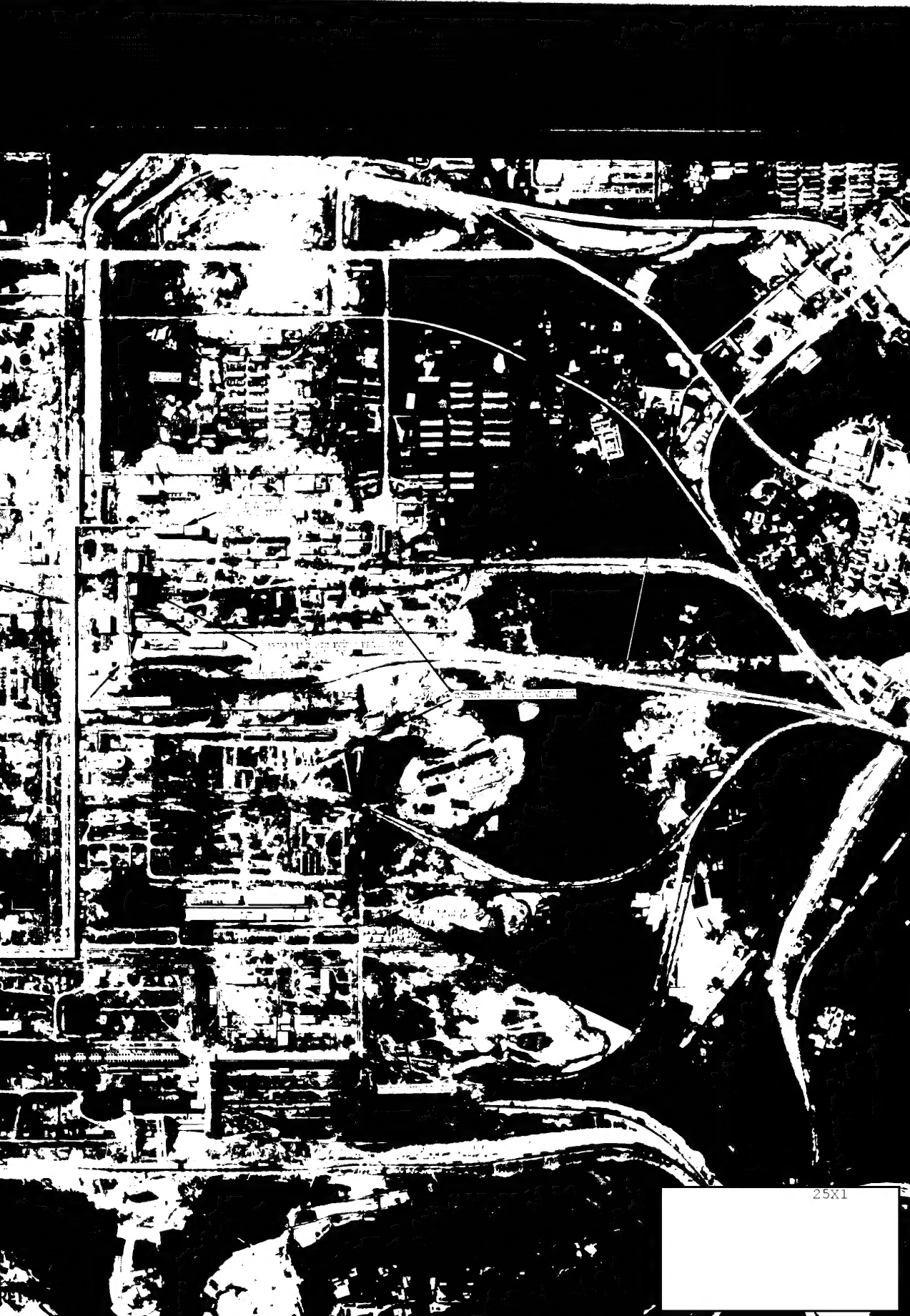
- 1 Annotated Photo Enlargement  
(CIA/PID/IB-P-785/63)

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